

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 11490 01 OF 02 221528Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----020752 221537Z /42
O 221130Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9613

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11490

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2, 3
TAGS: CASC, GW, UR
SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 150773

1. DCM MET WITH VOGEL IN BONN JUNE 21.
2. VOGEL CONFIRMED RUSSIAN INTEREST IN THEIR TWO NATIONALS ARRESTED IN NEW JERSEY. HE SAID HE HAS A MANDATE TO ACT IN THE CASE. PRESUMABLY ON THE BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KALMANOWITCH, HE HAS ASKED IF THE RUSSIANS ARE INTERESTED IN A DEAL INVOLVING THE NEW JERSEY TWO AND SHCHARANSKY PLUS ONE. VOGEL IS NOW AWAITING THE RUSSIAN RESPONSE. HE CONVEYED THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAVE BEEN IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN HE EXPECTS A RUSSIAN POSITION. COMMENT. THE SENSE OF VOGEL'S REMARKS WAS THAT THE BALL IS IN THE RUSSIAN COURT AND IT IS UP TO THEM TO RESPOND ON THE PROPOSED DEAL. HE SAID HE HAD STRESSED TO THE RUSSIANS THAT SHCHARANSKY WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED. HE IS AWARE THAT KALMANOWITCH CANNOT MAKE OFFERS FOR THE USG, BUT HE IS CLEARLY GOING ON THE WORKING ASSUMPTION THAT THERE IS POSSIBLE USG INTEREST.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 11490 01 OF 02 221528Z

HE DID NOT ASK THE DCM TO CONFIRM USG WILLINGNESS TO TRADE WITH THE NEW JERSEY TWO, NOR DID THE DCM COMMENT ON THIS POINT. END COMMENT.

3. VOGEL CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS GIVEN KALMANOWITCH A LIST OF CHILEANS IN WHOM THE RUSSIANS AND EAST GERMANS ARE INTERESTED. A PROBLEM IS THAT THE EASTERN SIDE

DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. ARE THEY STILL ALIVE? HAVE SOME BEEN AMNESTIED? IF NOT, ARE THEY LIKELY TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE AMNESTIES, AND IF SO, WHEN? VOGEL SAID HE THOUGHT KALMANOWITCH PLANNED TO GO TO CHILE SOON TO PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS WITH THE AUTHORITIES. HE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE INVOLVING SHCHARANSKY AND CHILEANS. COMMENT. VOGEL DID, HOWEVER, MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT A MAJOR PACKAGE INVOLVING RUSSIANS WE HAVE, SHCHARANSKY AND POSSIBLY OTHER DISSIDENTS, CHILEANS, LUNT-LEBRON, AS A MEANS OF AVOIDING THE SPY-FOR-SPY IMAGE AND CONCEALING THE PRECISE TRADE-OFFS. IN THIS SENSE, SHCHARANSKY COULD PRESUMABLY BE INVOLVED WITH CHILEANS, BUT THE DCM GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT VOGEL SEES THE MAJOR PACKAGE AT THIS POINT AS A THEORETICAL PROPOSITION, NOT A PRACTICAL MATTER, GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING THE VARIOUS PIECES TOGETHER. END COMMENT.

4. ON LUNT-LEBRON, VOGEL DID NOT CRITICIZE THE CUBANS TO THE DCM. HE ASSUMES THE LACK OF CUBAN MOVEMENT IS DUE TO THE PUBLIC US-CUBAN POLEMIC OVER ZAIRE. HE EXPECTS A CUBAN RESPONSE IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS, AT WHICH TIME THE CUBANS WILL INDICATE THE CHANNEL THEY WISH TO USE IF THEY WANT TO PURSUE THE DEAL. VOGEL ALLUDED TO POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES WITH LEBRON OVER THE RELEASE OF SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 11490 01 OF 02 221528Z

HER ASSOCIATES AND WHERE SHE WOULD GO ON RELEASE. HE SAID THAT AT SOME POINT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR SOMEONE ACTING FOR THE CUBANS TO TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BE RELEASED ONLY IF SHE ACCEPTED THE TERMS OFFERED, WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE. ON THE MECHANICS, VOGEL SPOKE OF AN EXCHANGE AT SEA BETWEEN CUBA AND THE FLORIDA COAST. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUESTION VOGEL SAID HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE A MANDATE FROM THE CUBANS TO ACT FOR LEBRON.

5. DCM CONVEYED OUR INTEREST IN SARETZKI. VOGEL SAID HE THINKS IT BETTER NOT TO TRY TO WORK SARETZKI INTO THE OTHER TRADES CURRENTLY BEING MENTIONED INVOLVING US SINCE TO DO SO MIGHT COMPLICATE THINGS. INSTEAD, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE TAKE SARETZKI UP WITH THE WEST GERMANS WHO, HE THOUGHT, WOULD BE PREPARED TO INCLUDE HIM IN THEIR OWN PRISONER DEALS WITH THE GDR. COMMENT. PLEASE ADVISE IF WE SHOULD ACT ON VOGEL'S SUGGESTION. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 01 BONN 11490 02 OF 02 230135Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 221130Z JUN 78
FM AMEMDASSY BONN
O SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9614

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11490

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 11490 VICE 11498

6. COMMENT. VOGEL SAYS HE HAS A MANDATE TO ACT IN THE CASE OF THE NEW JERSEY TWO, AND DCM SEES NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS. VOGEL HAS THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KALMANOWITCH AT SHCHARANSKY IS A SIN3 QUANON OF ANY DEAL INVOLVING THE TWO. THUS, WHILE HE MAY NOT HAVE A FORMA MANDATE FROM THE RUSSIANS TO DISCUSS SHCHARANSKY, HE IS SOUNDING OUT THE RUSSIANS ON THEIR INTENTIONS RE A DEAL. AS USUAL WITH VOGEL, HE IS FISHING UP AND DOWN THE STREAM TO SEE IF HE CAN GET ENOUGH BITES TO GO INTO BUSINESS. DCM MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS LISTENING, NOT NEGOTIATING. VOGEL IS AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF EXCESSIVE PUBLICITY IN THE GILMAN CHANNEL, BUT HE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT THAT CHANNEL CAN PRODUCE. HE SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT THE GILMAN CHANNEL, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, IS AN ESTABLISHED PART OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGE LANDSCAPE. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE WANTS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH DCM ON THE CASES AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE AGAIN WHEN HE HAD ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REMARKED ALSO THAT HE SENSED AN INTEREST ON THE PART OF OUR EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN IN ENGAGING HIM IN PRISONER EXCHANGE MATTERS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE FOR BOTH SIDES TO AVOID USE OF THAT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 11490 02 OF 02 230135Z

CHANNEL IN THESE MATTERS.

7. KALMANDWITCH HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH DCM AGAIN SINCE HIS JUNE 16 PHONE CALL.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONER EXCHANGE, REPORTS, CAT-B, DCM, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN11490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALSO X2
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780632/aaaabbku.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 09a8bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 150773
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2253687
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRISONER EXCHANGE
TAGS: PINS, CASC, GE, UR, US, (SHCHARANSKIY, ANATOLIY), (CHERNYAYEV, RUDOLF), (ENGER, VALDIK), (VOGEL, WOLFGANG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09a8bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014